

# Getting hands-on

**Endodontic Practice talks to Richard Kahan about the Academy of Advanced Endodontics, a new course provider offering a programme dedicated to endo**

## **Tell us more about the Academy of Advanced Endodontics**

The idea for the Academy of Advanced Endodontics was originally devised while I was director of endodontic courses within the UCL Eastman Dental Institute CPD department, which consisted of mentoring the postgraduate diploma students within a specialist endodontic practice. The project was shelved when the rooms became unavailable, but I maintained my passion for the idea of practical teaching within my own practice where I could really demonstrate real-world endodontics.

I wanted to open the doors to the practice to show and teach how endodontics can be done to a high-standard through live demonstration and small group hands-on sessions.

Rather than sitting in a large audience listening to an individual talking, or even in a teaching centre or university divorced from a real clinical setting, the teaching would centre around my practice and what I do every day. The idea is for participants to be able to watch how we work, study our systems and protocols, list equipment and steal ideas. Maybe even give me a tip or two!

## **Who are you trying to attract into the Academy?**

I have devised three different courses and a fellowship scheme, so anyone interested in improving their endodontics – from VTs through to specialists – will be welcome.

'Get it right – first time' is for general dental practitioners, and will put into place the fundamentals of modern, efficient, primary endodontic treatment, such as access cavities, canal negotiation, canal length management, hybrid nickel titanium preparation, disinfection and effective three-dimensional obturation.

The 'Certificate in endodontic practice' takes these skills into more challenging areas of retreatment and technical error reversal for general dental practitioners and those with an ambition to move towards a special interest in endodontics.

Richard Kahan is a specialist endodontist working on Harley Street, London. The former director of endodontic courses at UCL Eastman CPD, he has lectured widely on endodontics and technology. He has recently set up the Academy of Advanced Endodontics to teach the fundamentals of endodontics to VTs and GDPs, more advanced techniques for GDPs and GDPwSI Endo, and CBCT reporting for specialists and GDPwSI Endo, through practical hands-on courses. The four-day course 'Get it right – first time!' begins in May 2014 and a new one-day course 'CBCT in endodontic practice' begins in June 2014. For more information, visit [www.endoacademy.co.uk](http://www.endoacademy.co.uk).



For specialists and cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) enthusiasts, there is a one-day practical masterclass in the use of limited volume CBCT in endodontics.

Lastly, there is an opportunity for training specialists, postgraduates awaiting their speciality registration, to work in the practice through the fellowship scheme, which I hope to expand over the next few years.

## **What is the idea behind the 'Get it right – first time' course?**

While auditing my practice treatment profiles, I discovered that almost half of my clinical time is spent retreating teeth that had failed due to inadequate primary treatment.

With success rates for retreatment significantly worse than for primary treatment, I feel strongly that general dental practitioners should be taught how to carry out effective primary treatment and given the tools to do so. Unfortunately, newly qualified dentists are leaving dental school having root treated only a few teeth because of the pressures on the timetable. They then quickly pick up bad habits in general practice.

Treatment carried out correctly at the primary stage is easier, and more successful, and should be done most of the time by general dental practitioners who have been taught how to do it well. Patients would be able to keep their root

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treated teeth much longer and the demand for endodontic specialists would also be reduced significantly.

### **Do any companies sponsor the Academy?**

I strongly value independence and have set up the Academy without any direct support from the trade. This allows me to showcase the instruments and techniques I have selected on performance and evidence base rather than through a financial deal.

Over the years I have developed relationships with manufacturers and distributors of the equipment I use and I thank them for their support during setting up the project, but this is all about showing practitioners how I do my endo, and sharing the knowledge, not about selling equipment.

### **You have a reputation for innovation, how are you going to exploit that in these courses?**

Thank you! I think the main innovation will be the production of a well-structured, substantial and uncompromising course, like those found in the universities, but without the requirement to fulfil academic credits through hours and hours of written work and study.

Achieving good competent endodontics is a truly practical skill allied with clear thinking, and this is what I will concentrate on without recourse to extensive reading, assignments or examination.

Of course, participants will have the opportunity to observe and work with some of the innovations I use within the practice and I do hope that this will be a valuable learning experience as well.

I will not hold back from showing off my toys and, for good measure, I do have a few new teaching innovations that should hopefully mark these courses out as being outstanding and very different from what you might get elsewhere. ■

## **Academy of Advanced Endodontics courses**

All courses will take place at Academy of Advanced Endodontics, 99 Harley Street, London. For more information, visit [www.endoacademy.co.uk](http://www.endoacademy.co.uk).

### **Get it right – first time!**

A four-day foundation skills course in endodontics, enabling attendees to understand the aims and objectives of successful primary endodontic treatment and how to achieve it through effective isolation, light magnification, modern efficient canal preparation, disinfection and rapid three-dimensional obturation. The course features full simulation hands-on practical small group teaching, and live session treatment.

Course tutor: Richard Kahan

Dates: 23 May, 30 May, 6 June

### **Certificate in endodontic practice**

This course is geared to those practitioners who want to increase their confidence in dealing with the more challenging cases and to advance their endodontic skills. Three four-day courses covering foundation skills, advanced diagnostic and treatment planning skills, retreatadontics, dealing with technical errors, resorptions and dento-alveolar trauma. The course features full simulation hands-on practical small group teaching, and live session treatment.

Course tutor: Richard Kahan

Dates: 23 May, 30 May, 6 June

### **Limited volume cone beam CT in endodontic practice**

This practical one-day course in limited volume CBCT for endodontics is designed for specialist endodontists, GDPwSI in endodontics, and any general dental practitioner who wants a greater understanding of its uses. The course will cover scientific basis, dosimetry, normal anatomy and disease, software reporting, artifacts, comparative scan assessment, virtual PAs, and introduce targeted and guided endodontics through practical tasks and discussion.

Course tutors: Richard Kahan and Jackie Brown

Dates: 13 June, 1 August

